CLAIMS:

1. A method of powering on and off a laundry washing appliance having an electronically commutated motor powered from a high direct voltage where at least one motor winding and a pair of commutation devices in a common motor current path are operated together as a buck converter to provide a low direct voltage supply machine comprising:

an active switching device is connected across the input of one of said pair of commutation devices and is switched on by a latching circuit to cause said commutation device to switch off to thereby disable said buck converter, and

a push button switch on user activation disables said latching circuit to turn off said active switching device to allow said one commutation switch to function and thereby enable said buck converter.

2. A method of powering on and off a washing appliance according to claim 1 wherein said latching circuit comprises a capacitor charged from said high direct voltage connected in parallel with an active device which is biased on by said low voltage supply and wherein said push button switch is a normally off switch connected in parallel with said capacitor which upon user activation discharges said capacitor to thereby disable said latching circuit.

3. A direct current power supply for a washing appliance having an electronically commutated motor powered from a high direct voltage comprising:

a switch mode power supply which supplies direct current at a low voltage level from said high direct voltage supply using at least one motor winding and a pair of commutation devices in a common motor current path as a buck converter,

an active switching device connected across the input of one of said pair of commutation devices,

a latching circuit which controls said active switching device to cause said commutation device to switch off to thereby disable said buck converter, and

a push button switch for disabling said latching circuit to cause said active switching device to switch off to allow said one commutation switch to function and thereby enable said buck converter.

4. A direct current power supply for a washing appliance according to claim 3 wherein said latching circuit comprises a capacitor charged from said high direct voltage connected in parallel with an active device which is biased on by said low voltage supply and wherein said push button is a normally off switch connected in parallel with said capacitor which upon user activation discharges said capacitor to thereby disable said latching circuit.